



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System
Ioannis A. Lougaris VA Medical Center

February 3, 2016

Ioannis A. Lougaris
VA Medical Center
975 Kirman Avenue
Reno, Nevada 89502-
2597
(775) 786-7200 or
(888) 838-6256

VA Sierra Foothills
Outpatient Clinic
11985 Heritage Oaks
Place
Auburn, California 95603
(530) 889-0872 or
(888) 227-5404

VA Carson Valley
Outpatient Clinic
1330 Waterloo Lane
Suite 101
Gardnerville, Nevada
89410
(775) 782-5265

VA Lahontan Valley
Outpatient Clinic
345 West A Street
Fallon, Nevada 89406
(775) 428-6161 or
(866) 504-0490

VA Winnemucca
Outreach Clinic
3298 Traders Way
Winnemucca, NV 89445
(775)623-9575

VA Diamond View
Outpatient Clinic
110 Bella Way
Susanville, California
96130
(530)251-4550 or
(877)816-8572

Julie H. Ernstein Ph.D., RPA
Deputy SHPO
Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 5004
Carson City, NV 89701-4285

Re: National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation
SHPO UT2014-3179
Upgrade B1 Seismic, Life Safety, Utility Correction and Expand Clinical Services
VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, 975 Kirman Avenue, Reno, NV 89502

Dear Ms. Ernstein:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Phase One Archeological Survey on VASNHCS Campus as commissioned for the indicated project.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (775) 789-6632, or via e-mail at arlee.fisher@va.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Arlee Fisher".

Arlee Fisher

Attachments

Phase One Archeological Survey on VASNHCS Campus

cc: Almaira Garcia, United States Department of Veterans Affairs; Almaira.Garcia@va.gov
Michael Rowley, United States Department of Veterans Affairs; Michael.Rowley@va.gov
Douglas Roaldson, United States Department of Veterans Affairs;
Douglas.Roaldson@va.gov

WCRM

Western Cultural Resource Management, Inc.

January 19, 2016

Ms. Arlee Fisher
VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System
Facilities Management
975 Kirman Ave.
Reno, NV 89502

RE: Phase One Archeological Survey on VASNHCS Campus

Dear Ms. Fisher:

This letter constitutes a report for the Phase One Survey on the Veterans Administration Sierra Nevada Health Care System (VASNHCS) Campus, related to the proposed clinical expansion of the VASNHCS, Reno Campus. The construction of the clinical expansion facility will adversely affect Building 1, previously determined to be a contributing element of the historic district (State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO] Resource Number: D191) comprised of Second Generation hospital resources at the VASNHCS Reno under Criteria A, B, and C (Quimby 2014: 2.26-2.27).

Because the potential for subsurface archaeological resources was unknown, however, the VA required assistance in identifying any cultural resources that could potentially be affected by the proposed clinical expansion of the VASNHCS, Reno Campus. "Cultural resources" include historic properties as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, archaeological resources as defined in the Archaeological Resources Protection Act ("NHPA" and "ARPA", 16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*), Native American Cultural Items as defined pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act ("NAGPRA", 25 U.S.C. 3001-3013 *et seq.*), historical, archaeological and scientific data as defined pursuant to the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 ("AHPA", 16 U.S.C. 469 *et seq.*), historical documents, records, and artifacts, and any other cultural or historical values unique to the geographic area potentially affected by the proposed clinical expansion of the VASNHCS, Reno Campus. Information about such resources is needed in order to assist VA in measuring the significance of environmental impacts under Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA", 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), Section 106 of the NHPA, and related legal authorities.

To fulfill these obligations a file search, archival research, and limited subsurface testing was conducted. The subsurface testing consisted of a single 1 m x 1 m, hand excavated test unit (TU) in the basement of VA hospital Building 1 as well as a backhoe trench (BHT) just to the east of Building 1.

File Search

A search of the NVCRIS database shows no previously recorded archaeology sites, historic or prehistoric, within or immediately adjacent to the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE) as defined in Quimby (2014: 2.1). Figure 1 attached to this letter details these results.

COLORADO	P.O. Box 2326, Boulder, CO 80306 · Phone 303-449-1151 Fax 303-530-7716
NEW MEXICO	2603 W. Main St., Suite B, Farmington, NM 87401 · Phone 505-326-7420 Fax 505-324-1107
NEVADA	890 E. Greg Street, Sparks, NV 89431 · Phone 775-358-9003 Fax 775-358-1387
ARIZONA	3014 N. Hayden Rd., Suite 118, Scottsdale, AZ 85251 · Phone 480-423-6837 Fax 480-874-4719

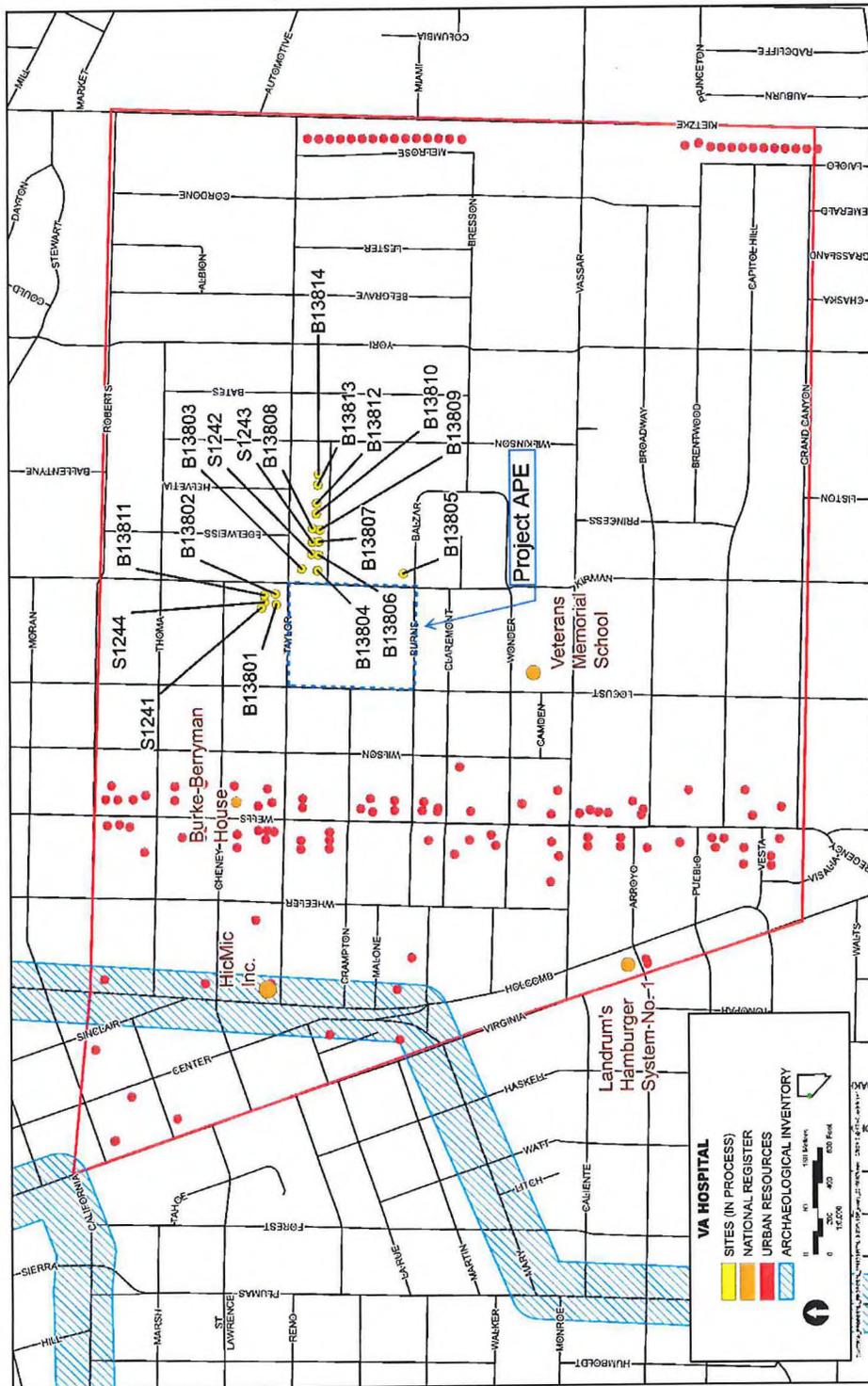


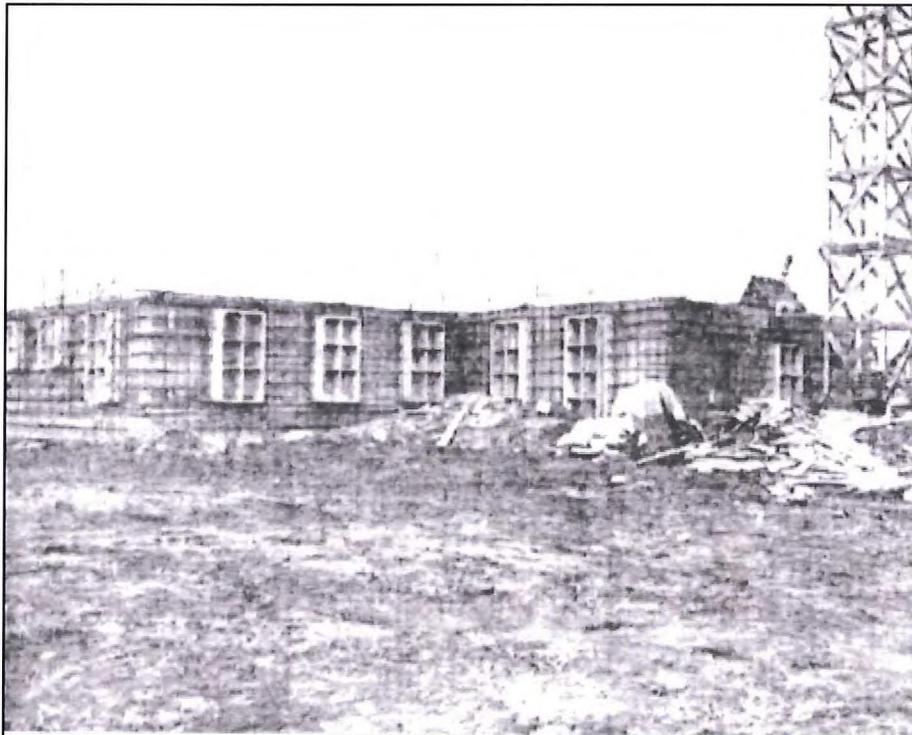
Figure 1 – NVCRIS Search Results

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Archival Research

The original Nevada Veterans Hospital was constructed during a period of expanding national healthcare services for veterans; in 1930 there were 45 VA hospitals and by 1947 there were 125 (United States Veterans Administration 2015). Nevada would be included in this expansion through the efforts of Greek immigrant and WWI veteran Ioannis Lougaris. Prior to this, Nevada veterans had to travel to San Francisco to receive health care, or if they were financially unable, seek treatment at the Washoe County “poor hospital” (Lougaris 1966:13). Lougaris, active in the national leadership of the American Legion, worked with Nevada Senators Key Pittman and Pat McCarran to obtain authorization and funding for a Nevada veterans hospital. Construction began in December 1937 and the hospital was completed and began receiving patients in May of 1939 (Lougaris 1966; NSJ 21 May 1939:23). The hospital had a capacity of 26 beds and 40 employees (REG 9 April 1954:6). The building was three stories tall and constructed in the sparse Public Works Administration (PWA) Moderne style.



Construction of the Reno Veterans Hospital
From Reno Evening Gazette [REG] 14 March 1938

Two additions to the original building and three, six-story tall wings were constructed in 1947 (Building 1) - raising the capacity of the hospital to 166 beds while the original building was converted into Veterans Administration offices. This also included a dramatic expansion of facilities and services with the addition of “a basement, kitchen, dining rooms for both staff and patients, an auditorium, chapel, reading and medical library, canteen, recreational hall, physiotherapy and clinical laboratory, X-ray room, ice plant, refrigerated meat locker, engineering shops and of course one, two, and four-bedroom wards.” (REG 9 April 1954:6)

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Further modifications to the hospital campus in 1962 allowed additional beds to be added, bringing capacity up to 202 beds and 240 full time employees (NSJ 22 July 1963:2).

Subsurface Testing (June 8, 2015 to June 11, 2015)

On June 8, 2015 a slab of concrete was saw-cut and removed from the basement floor of Building 1. From June 8 to June 9, 2015 a 1 m x 1 m test unit (TU 1) was excavated in the soils beneath the removed concrete basement floor (see Figure 2). The TU was excavated a total of 44 cm in a single level before being terminated. The unit was excavated in a single level in an attempt to get below the construction fill directly beneath the basement floor, made up of coarse sand with a small amount of gravel and gravel-sized concrete fragments. A linear concrete feature and a vertical pipe capped with concrete were uncovered in the unit before excavation ceased. The unit was terminated at 44 cm beneath the basement floor due to the bottom filling in with water. It appeared that a water table of sorts had been reached, though it was unclear at the time whether the water table was natural or artificial. Upon reviewing the building plans, William Finney of Stafford King Wiese Architects suggested that the concrete feature uncovered in the TU is likely the edge of a concrete brine tank, used as part of an historic refrigeration/ice making system (Personal Communication, June 10, 2015).



TU 1 in the basement of VA Hospital Building 1, facing south. TU1 is in progress, at the elevation where the fill began to be saturated (note the color change from brown to gray). The concrete and steel wall of what is likely a brine tank is exposed in the southern end of the unit.

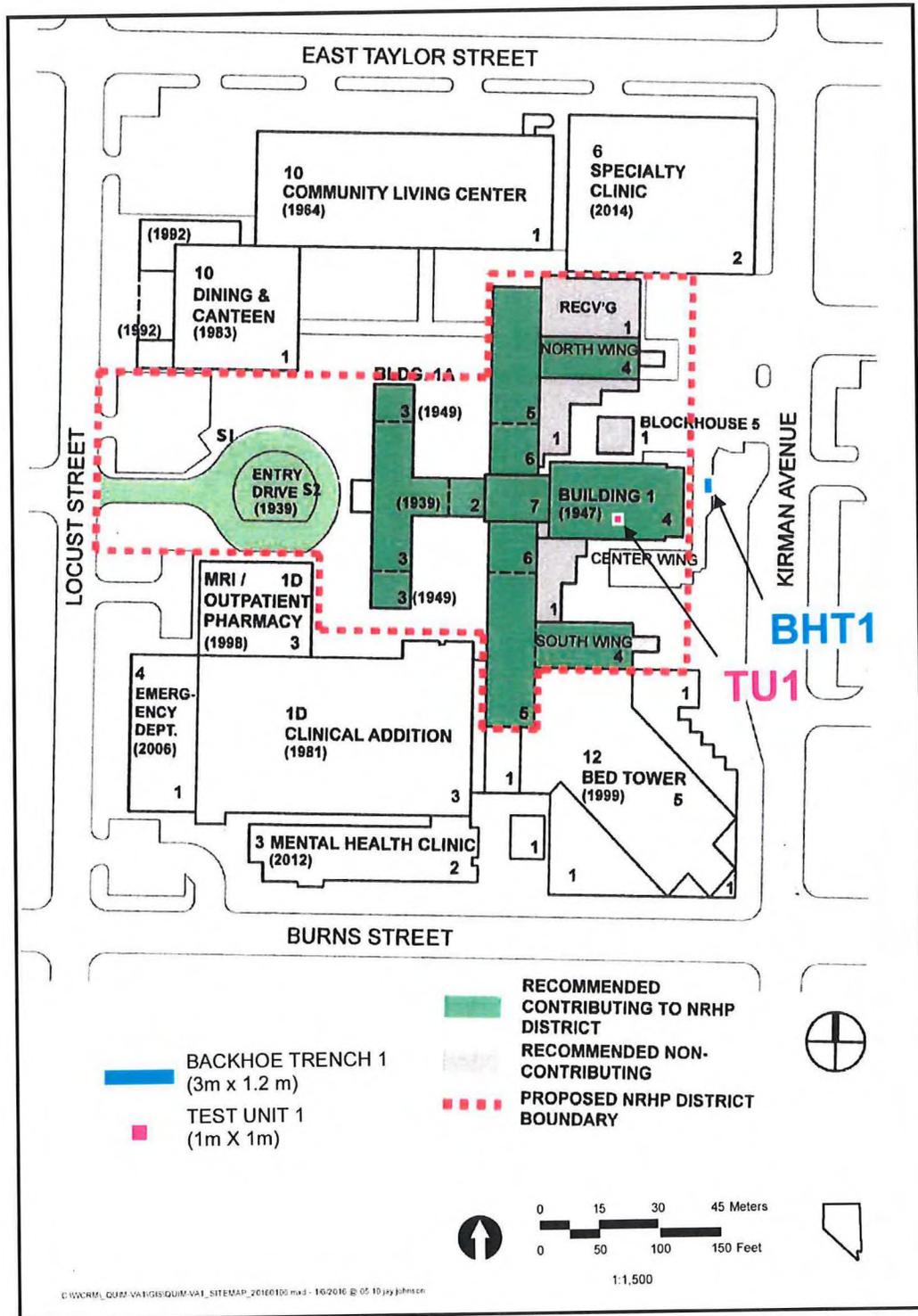


Figure 2 – Plan View showing location of the TUI and BHT1.

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On June 11, 2015 a BHT to the east of Building 1 and west of Kirman Avenue was excavated and profiled (see Figure 3). It measured 3 meters long (north to south) by 1.2 meters wide (east to west) and 1.28 meters deep. The trench was stopped when it reached a stratigraphic layer that appeared to be undisturbed by modern or historic construction activities.

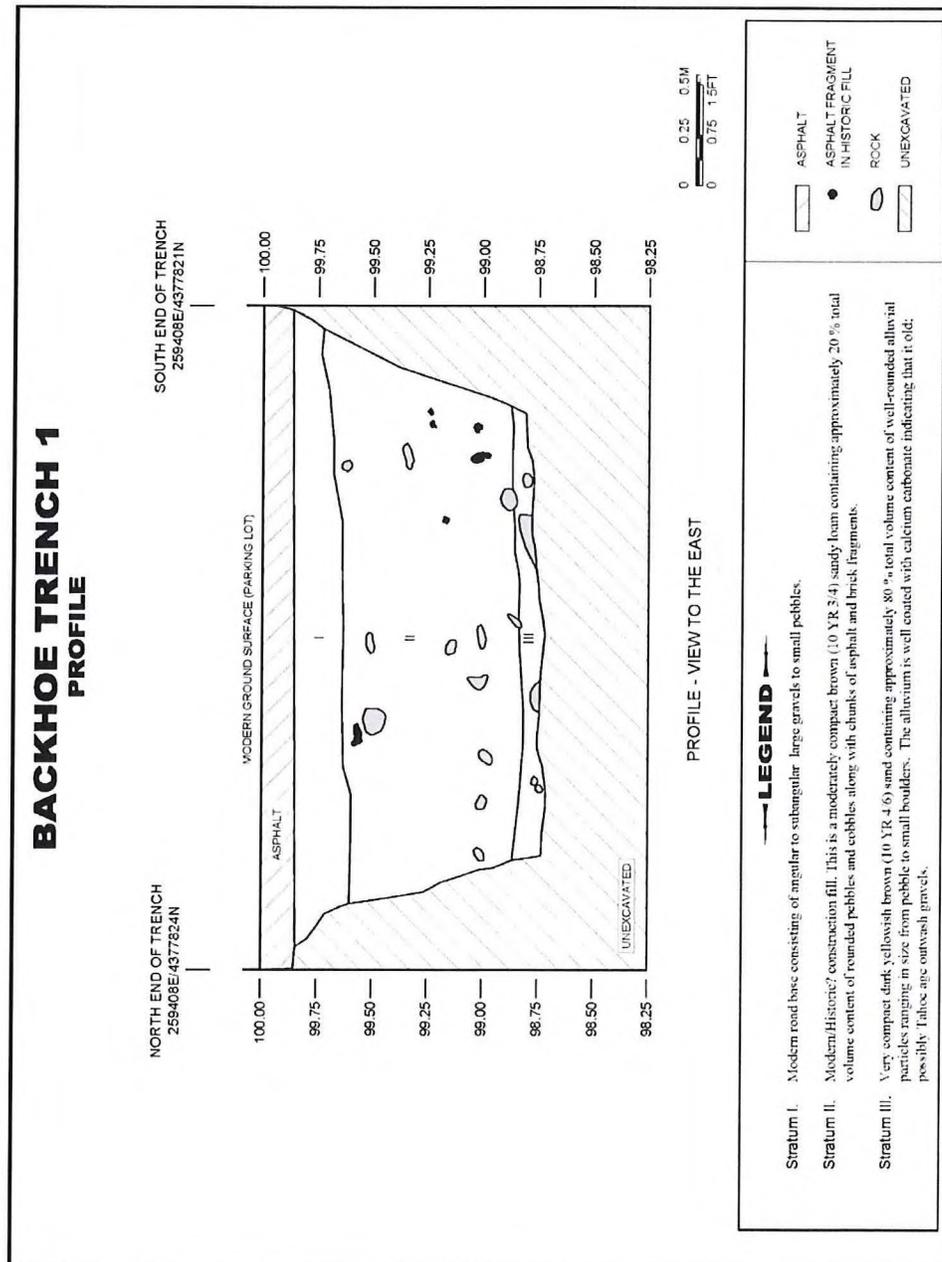


Figure 3 – Profile of Backhoe Trench 1, east wall.
 Construction fill with visible asphalt fragments is the largest stratigraphic unit present, sitting on a compact, rocky and calcium rich stratigraphic unit.

A small amount (15 cm - 25 cm) of gravel and sand road base was present at the top of the trench, immediately beneath the asphalt. Beneath this road base was a thick layer (70 cm - 80 cm) of what appeared to be historic construction fill. The historic construction fill consisted of compact loamy sand with rounded gravel and cobbles as well as chunks of asphalt and one brick fragment. Approximately 5 cm - 13 cm of the lowest stratigraphic layer was exposed before the trench was terminated. The lowest layer consisted of a very compact sand rich in rounded gravels, cobbles and boulders coated with calcium carbonate. This is likely a limiting horizon that is too old to contain cultural materials unless they are intrusive to it.



Backhoe Trench 1 east wall, post excavation. Note the small asphalt fragments in the lighter colored historic fill. 259411mE/4377822mN

Management Recommendations

The TU unit within the basement of Building 1 encountered infrastructure related to the historic Building 1 itself, and further hand excavation was not possible. The BHT excavated to the east of the building revealed construction fill on top of sediments that are not likely to contain intact cultural deposits.

Based on the results of the limited testing conducted, no further work is recommended at this time. However, as indicated by the testing there is subsurface historic infrastructure within the APE and it is recommended that an archaeological monitor be present during any earth disturbing demolition and/or construction activities to identify and document any potential discoveries.

If you have any questions related to this report and recommendations on the Phase One Survey on the Veterans Administration Sierra Nevada Health Care System (VASNHCS) Campus, please feel free to contact WCRM at 775-358-9003.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Stoner, M.A., RPA
Regional Manager – Project Director
WCRM, Inc.

Enclosures: Figures (3); Site forms; photos; and photo logs

Cc: Tom Lennon (WCRM)
Mark Demuth, (WCRM)

References Cited

Lougaris, Ioannis

1966 *Ioannis A. Lougaris: From an Immigrant Boy of Yesterday to the Youth of Today*. University of Nevada Oral History Program, Reno, NV.

Nevada State Journal (NSJ) [Reno, Nevada]

1939 "Write up of new hospital." 21 May:23. Reno, Nevada.

1963 "Nevada Veterans Hospital Has Openings for Nurses." 22 July:2, Reno, Nevada.

Reno Evening Gazette (REG) [Reno, Nevada]

1954 "Open House Planned at Veterans Hospital." 9 April:6. Reno, Nevada.

United States Veterans Administration

2015 "VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System". www.reno.va.gov/about/history.asp. Accessed June 15, 2015.

Quimby McCoy Preservation Architecture, LLP

2014 NHPA Section 106 Report for VASNHCS Reno - Building I Seismic Upgrade and Clinical Expansion, Chapter 2. Draft report, unpublished as of June 25, 2015.

20. Distance to Permanent Water: 700 m (Truckee River) Type: (A) spring **(B) stream/river** (C) lake (D) other
21. Geographic Unit: Truckee Meadows (BLH) 22. Topographic Location/Primary Landform: Valley (E)
23. Depositional Context: Alluvial Plain (H) 24. Vegetation Community (primary only): Unknown (Z); urban

Artifact Summary: Record all culturally modified materials and artifacts (including but not limited to: projectile points, bifaces, debitage, groundstone, beads, FCR, textiles, glass, cans, ceramics, etc.) using **IMACS USER'S GUIDE** categories.

Feature 1

Feature Description

Feature Dimensions: 1.0 m x 0.87 m x 0.26 m deep Area: 0.87m²

Feature Type: Concrete brine tank

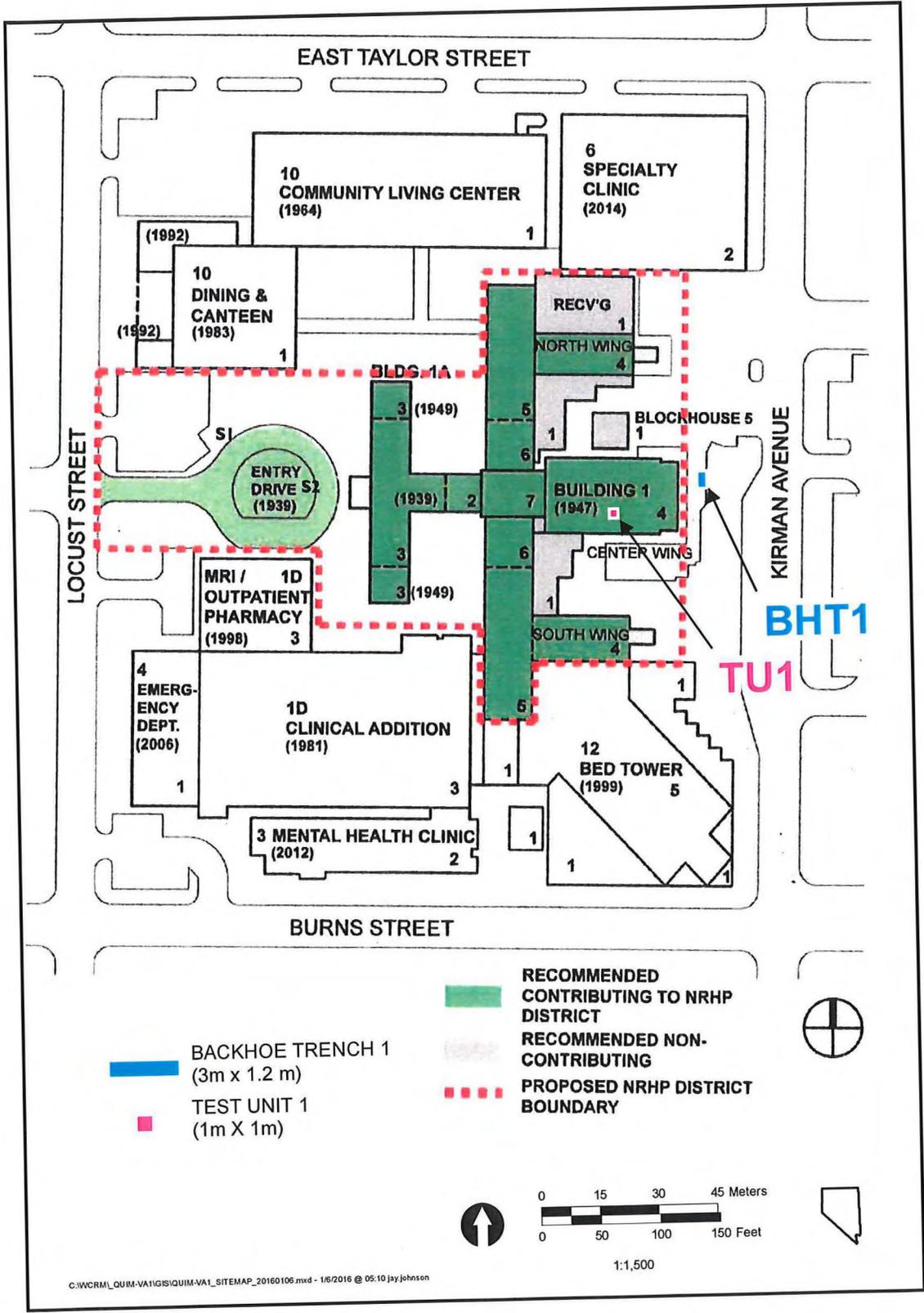
Feature Description (dimensions, materials, physical attributes, etc.): Feature 1 is composed of a 1.0 m (east to west) x 0.87 m (north to south) x 0.26 m deep portion of a concrete tank. A small portion of the tank's south wall was exposed in a 1 m x 1 m test unit, so the actual dimensions are likely much larger. This includes the depth, as the test unit was excavated only until it filled in with water and excavation was no longer possible. The test unit was placed in the basement of the Reno VASNHCS Campus Building 1, after a 5 ft x 5 ft piece of concrete was cut out of the floor slab. The tank was filled with a coarse-grained sand (the same kind present beneath the floor slab of the basement). There were a few small pieces of gravel and concrete fragments in the sand, though the fill was generally quite homogenous. The interior of the tank appears to be lined with steel. The concrete walls of the tank ranged from 5-12 cm in thickness. A 1 inch diameter copper pipe was extending from the tank bottom, just above the level at which the tank was holding water. There is a roughly 10 – 17 cm gap between the exposed wall of the tank and a concrete grade beam to the south.

Artifacts Directly Associated with Feature: A few small concrete fragments were noted in the sand filling the tank.

Attachments: 7.5 minute USGS Location Map; Site Sketch Map; photographs

References Cited

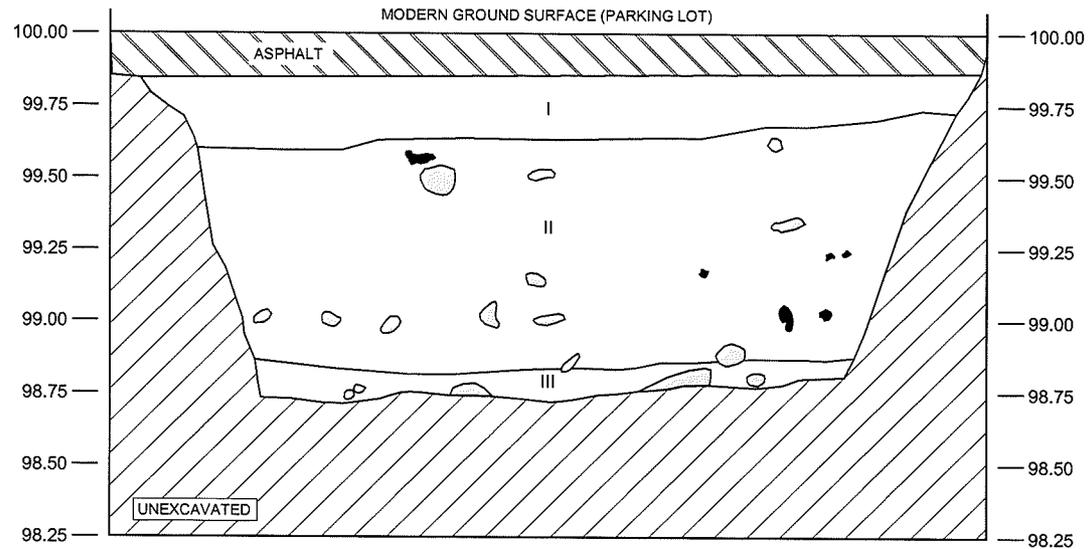
- Lougaris, Ioannis
1966 *Ioannis A. Lougaris: From an Immigrant Boy of Yesterday to the Youth of Today*. University of Nevada Oral History Program, Reno, NV.
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Quimby McCoy Preservation Architecture, LLP
2014 NHPA Section 106 Report for VASNHCS Reno - Building I Seismic Upgrade and Clinical Expansion, Chapter 2.
Draft report, unpublished as of 6/25/2015.



BACKHOE TRENCH 1 PROFILE

NORTH END OF TRENCH
259408E/4377824N

SOUTH END OF TRENCH
259408E/4377821N



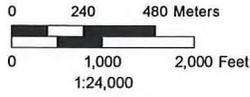
LEGEND

- Stratum I.** Modern road base consisting of angular to subangular large gravels to small pebbles.
- Stratum II.** Modern/Historic? construction fill. This is a moderately compact brown (10 YR 3/4) sandy loam containing approximately 20 % total volume content of rounded pebbles and cobbles along with chunks of asphalt and brick fragments.
- Stratum III.** Very compact dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4/6) sand containing approximately 80 % total volume content of well-rounded alluvial particles ranging in size from pebble to small boulders. The alluvium is well coated with calcium carbonate indicating that it old; possibly Tahoe age outwash gravels.

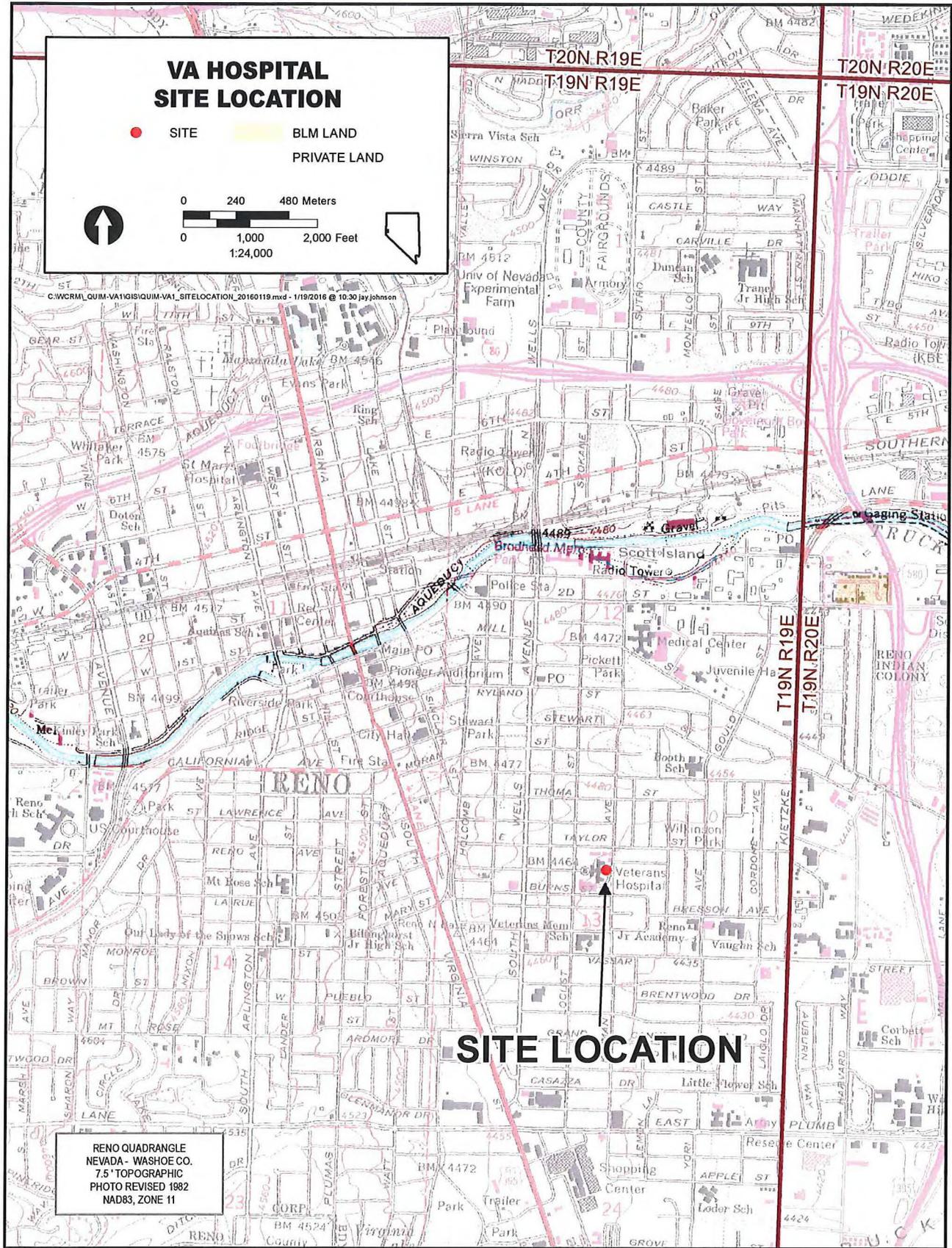
- ASPHALT
- ASPHALT FRAGMENT
IN HISTORIC FILL
- ROCK
- UNEXCAVATED

VA HOSPITAL SITE LOCATION

- SITE
- BLM LAND
- PRIVATE LAND



CC:\WCRML_GUM-VA1\GIS\GUM-VA1_SITELOCATION_20160119.mxd - 1/19/2016 @ 10:30 jay johnson



SITE LOCATION

RENO QUADRANGLE
NEVADA - WASHOE CO.
7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC
PHOTO REVISED 1982
NAD83, ZONE 11



Building 1. Surface below the basement floor, after concrete removal. All the sediment exposed is sand construction fill. Photo taken facing west.



Building 1. Test Unit 1 in progress. South wall of Feature 1 (brine tank) exposed. Photo taken facing south.



Building 1. Test Unit 1 in progress. Color change in Feature 1 (brine tank) fill at water line visible in unit bottom. Photo taken facing south.



Building 1. Test Unit 1 closing photo, standing water in bottom of unit. Photo taken facing west.

WCRM Photo Log

Project: QUIM-VA1 Site No.: SHPO Resource No. D-191

Date	Shot	Description	Facing	Easting	Northing	Initials
6.8.15	1	Surface below the basement floor, after concrete removal. All the sediment exposed is sand construction fill.	W	Inside Building 1 basement	Inside Building 1 basement	PL
6.8.15	2	Test Unit 1 in progress. South wall of Feature 1 (brine tank) exposed.	S	Inside Building 1 basement	Inside Building 1 basement	PL
6.8.15	3	Test Unit 1 in progress. Color change in Feature 1 (brine tank) fill at water line visible in unit bottom.	S	Inside Building 1 basement	Inside Building 1 basement	PL
6.8.15	4	Test Unit 1 closing photo, standing water in bottom of unit.	W	Inside Building 1 basement	Inside Building 1 basement	PL